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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/884,366	06/19/2001	Donald T. Tang	JP920000140US1	1796

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IBM CORPORATION
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EXAMINER

LIM, KRISNA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/884,366

Applicant(s)

TANG ET AL.

Examiner

Krisna Lim

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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1. Claims 1-4 (actually 5 claims) are presented for examination.
2. The title of the invention is neither descriptive nor precise. A new title is required which should include, using twenty words or fewer, claimed features that differentiate the invention from the Prior Art. The title should reflect the gist of or the improvement of the present invention.
3. The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because
 - (a) Abstract should not contain superfluous language (e.g., "The present invention provides" should be deleted.
 - (b) Abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure.
 - (c) Abstract should set forth a process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious. See M.P.E.P. § 608.01(b).
4. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, "an user" is apparently a typographical error. It should be "a user".

In claim 3, "the step of said server sending an input interface layout to said client ..." lacks a clear antecedent basis because in the claim 1 there is no such step.
5. It is requested that a future correspondence from applicants have line numbering for the recitation of claims, if possible, as this will aid in the future correspondence from the examiner.
6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

7. Claim 1 (both of claims 1s called by the applicant) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stewart [U.S. Patent No. 5,715,453]. The applicants submitted this reference.

8. Stewart anticipated (e.g., see Fig. 2) the invention substantially as claimed. Taking both claim 1s as exemplary claims, the reference disclosed an input method based on a network (Fig. 2), said network comprising at least one server (220), one or more clients (200) which have browsers (210) for accessing (web page request URL) said server, characterized in that a user inputting characters (Web page request (URL)) by accessing said server via said browser.

9. Claim 1 (both of claims 1 called by the applicant) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Estrada et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,728,762].

10. Estrada anticipated (e.g., see Figs. 1-35) the invention substantially as claimed. Taking both claim 1s as exemplary claims, the reference disclosed an input method based on a network (Figs. 1-2), said network comprising at least one server (105), one or more clients (101) which have browsers (browser of 101) for accessing said server, characterized in that a user inputting characters by accessing said server via said browser.

11. Claim 1 (both of claims 1s called by the applicant) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dan et al. [U.S. Patent No. 5,867,651]. The applicants submitted this reference.

12. Dan et al. anticipated (e.g., see Figs. 1-2 and the abstract) the invention substantially as claimed. Taking both of claim 1s as exemplary claims, the reference disclosed an input method based on a network (Fig. 2), said network comprising at least one server (120), one or more clients (110) which have browsers (110) for accessing said server, characterized in that a user inputting characters by accessing said server via said browser (e.g., see Figs. 1-2 and the abstract).

13. Claim 1 (both of claims 1s called by the applicant) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hiroya et al. [U.S. Patent No. 5,751,957]. The applicants submitted this reference.

14. Hiroya et al. anticipated (e.g., see Figs. 1-2) the invention substantially as claimed. Taking both claim 1s as exemplary claims, the reference disclosed an input method based on a network (4), said network comprising at least one server (1-1), one or more clients (2-1) which have browsers (inherent in client 1-m) for accessing said server, characterized in that a user inputting characters by accessing said server via said browser.

15. Claim 1 (both of claims 1s called by the applicant) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Steele et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,314,458].

16. Steele et al. anticipated (e.g., see Fig. 2) the invention substantially as claimed. Taking both claim 1s as exemplary claims, the reference disclosed an input method based on a network (Figs. 1 and 4), said network comprising at least one server (31), one or more clients (12, 16, 21, 33 or 35) which have browsers (Client User Interface or browser) for accessing said server, characterized in that a user inputting characters by accessing said server via said browser.

17. Claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The references are cited in the Form PTO-892 for the applicant's review.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) days from the mail date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application (see 35 U.S.C 133, M.P.E.P 710.02, 710.02(b)).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krisna Lim whose telephone number is 571-272-3956. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess, can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

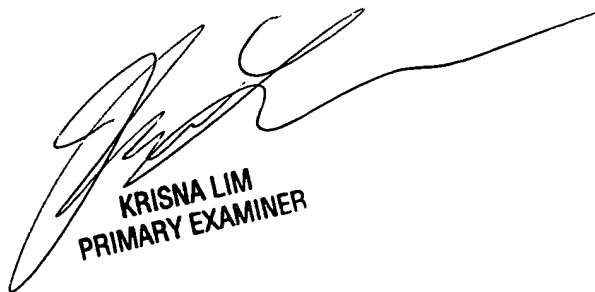
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KI

November 19, 2004



KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER